

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 SS-15 NSC-05 CU-02 L-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

IO-13 /068 W

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R 091212Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8253

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONGEN CALCUTTA 8108

AMCONGEN MADRAS

AMCONGEN BOMBAY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 13287

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, SCUL, IN

SUBJECT: ARREST OF CATHOLIC PRIESTS

REF: NEW DELHI 13199

HOLY SEE COUNSELOR WITH WHOM WE DISCUSSED REFTEL REPORT TOLD US SEPTEMBER 9 THAT TWO JESUIT PRIESTS OF BELGIAN ORIGIN WERE ARRESTED UNDER MISA IN RANCHI EARLY IN AUGUST. ONE PRIEST, FATHER DELH ROY, WAS RELEASED FOLLOWING THE INTERVENTION OF THE BISHOP OF BHOPAL, WHOSE DIOCESE INCLUDES RANCHI. THE SECOND, AN OLDER PRIEST NAMED VAN DERPLOY, REMAINS IN CONFINEMENT, LARGELY BECAUSE OF HIS OWN INTRANSIGENCE EXPLAINED THE COUNSELOR, ALTHOUGH CAREFUL TO ADD THAT ONE MUST RESPECT A PRIEST'S FIRM CONVICTIONS. VAN DERPLOY REPORTEDLY WOULD RATHER REMAIN IN PRISON AND RESIST THE STERILIZATION CAMPAIGN IN HIS OWN FASHION, COURTING MARTYRDOM, THAN WORK IN HIS FLOCK SAID OUR HOLY SEE INTERLOCUTOR. VAN DERPLOY WAS DESCRIBED TO US AS A RATHER NARROW-MINDED FELLOW WITH STRONGLY FIXED IDEAS. WE DID NOT GET THE IMPRESSION THAT THE HOLY SEE WAS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT VAN DERPLOY'S COUNTINUED DETENTION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CATHOLICS, ARRESTS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NEWDE13287
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760341-0126
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760977/aaaacokj.tel
Line Count: 61
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 NEW DELHI 13199
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <24 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARREST OF CATHOLIC PRIESTS
TAGS: PINT, SCUL, IN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006